Numb. 17.

Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, May the 24th. 1681.

Earn. AND are they ſo very angry, ſay you?

Jeſt. Yes I promiſe you, as angry as a neſt of Waſps when they are diſlodged out of a hollow Tree.

Earn. Why this is ſtrange; the King for his late gracious Declaration is libelled, defamed and traduced to the People, and they can be pleaſed at it, and laugh in their ſleeves; nay it report ſpeak truth it ſcaped narrowly from being preſented by a late Grand Jury as a Libel. But it any thing comes croſs that Party, that is a Crime ſo great that is never to be forgiven.

Jeſt. I hear the *Coffeehouſe* Junctos talk of an Anſwer to it, as an excellent thing, and all the Party have got it by the End, that it was never ſeal'd; but I could never ſee this excellent Piece, the Rogues grow ſhie of me, and if a knot of them be got into a Corner brooding over ſome ſuch goodly Piece, they are grown ſo cunning that like Wildgeeſe at Feed, they ſet Sentinels at a diſtance from the Flock, and as ſoon as ever they ſee me appear, the watch-word is given that the Enemy is coming, then immediatly the Foreman of the Jury puts up his pipes and away they troop.

Earn. Well, I have ſeen this precious piece of ſtuff that is crept abroad by Owl-light.

Jeſt. And I pray what is in it?

Earn. What d'e think? What have the private Preſſes been uſed to hatch, but Scandalous Reflections upon his Majeſty and his Government, ſeditious and treaſonable Expreſſions, to exaſperate the People and put them into new heats and Ferments, and alienate their affections from their Sovereign.

Jeſt. Oh, they may e'en throw their Caps at the Moon if that be all, the People are grown too wiſe to be taken with Chaff and Stales; but prithee let's hear a little of it.

Earn. It is like Muſtard among Children, a little of it will go a great way, but I will give you a taſte, he is angry with the Clergy, they are ever a great Moat in the Eyes of a Libeller. Oh your Tantivies are a wretched ſort of Loyal Animals! He tells you there is no doubt, but *the blind obedience of the Clergy will ſee the Command of publiſhing it in all Churches and Chappels in* England *carefully performed.* But wo be to them for obeying the King, they will be ſeverely chaſtiſed for their diligence; for adds he, *in ſuch a Caſe as publiſhing this Paper called* His Majeſties Declaration, *our Officious Clergymen will prove publiſhers of falſe News, and Invectives againſt a third Eſtate of the Kingdom, and will be liable to be queſtion'd for it.*

Jeſt. I have often admired at ſome Peoples blindneſs that pretend to ſee into a Milſtone as far as he that picks it; but never ſaw ſuch a ſquinting purblind Libeller as this in all my life: what care does he take of the third Eſtate of the Kingdom, and threatens the Clergy about it, when in the ſame breath he is beſtowing his Invectives againſt the King himſelf the Head of the three Eſtates? This is like *Killing no Murder*; libelling the King and Council, the Lords Spiritual who are a part of the officious and blindly obedient Clergy, and by our Laws allowed a third Eſtate of the Kingdom, with this bitter Invective, is no Crime I warrant you, nor does he think himſelf in danger for a publiſher of falſe News or liable to be queſtioned for it. Ay if this be his way of arguing, I have enough on't.

Earn. But you ſhall have a little more. He tells you *the King can do no wrong*, and fixes all upon the Miniſters of State, and at the ſame time quarrels his Majeſty both for his choice of ſuch, and keeping them; which is nothing but wounding the King through the ſides of his Miniſters, like *Wat Tyrrel* he pretends to ſhoot at a Deer, but the Arrow hits the King as his did *William Rufus*, this is the very exact & ſelf ſame way of reaſoning with that of the late horrid Rebels, who had nothing to ſay to the King but to his Evil Counſellors; but when with their Arms they had beaten him, and thoſe Loyal Subjects they called *Evil Counſellors*, then they had ſomething to ſay to Him too, and though it was in their power to remove all his Evil Counſellors, yet they removed Him out of the World.

Jeſt. So would this ſucking Remonſtrance-maker too, I warrant you, if it lay in his power.

Earn. Nay, you would ſay ſo if you read his whole Libel; for *pag.* 3. he informs the People that they neither have nor can have any ſecurity by exchanging paper Laws for money and power: *for*, ſays our little politick State-Maxim-maker, *it was never known that Laws ſignified any thing to a People that had not the ſole guard of their own Prince, Government and Laws.* So that the Government cannot be ſafe by his Rule without being overturned, and the Sovereign People ſet up above the King, the Laws and Government; and if this be not High Treaſon, a man need not fear the 13 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 1.

Jeſt. This looks like the ſecond part to the ſame tune, of, *if you part with money upon any terms till we are ſure the King is ours, the Nation is betray'd.*

Earn. It looks like *Fitz-Harris*'s impudent treaſonous Libel which they ſay is crept abroad under the Title of *Treaſon in grain*, which I am apt to ſuſpect ſtole out of ſome of the True Proteſtant Preſſes, who are as good at libelling of the King as ever a Papiſt of them all, and they ſay another *Harris* is Kidnapped for diſperſing it.

Jeſt. But why do you think ſo?

Earn. Becauſe the Mayor of *Goatham* ſome months ſince printed, as I take it, a certain Libel which has one intire paragraph almoſt *verbatim* as they ſay, with this ſaid to be

Fitz-

Fitz Harris's, viz. *Scotch Oaths*, *Irish Promises*, &c. which then went for true Proteſtant Mercury.

Jeſt. Alas poor Mr. Mayor, when *Fitz Harris* dies for age he'l quake for fear, I doubt.

Earn. No Sir, what is Treaſon in Gratis in *Fitz Harris*, may be, it ſeems, Religious Zeal only in true Proteſtant Diſſenters.

Jeſt. That may be indeed, for I heard a Gentleman ſay that as *Fitz Harris* paſſed through *Weſtminſter-hall*, the Proteſtant Joyner cried out aloud in an Extaſie, *God bleſs you Mr. Fitz-harris, all true Proteſtants are bound to pray for you.* Oh the tranſcendent merit of Libelling his Majeſty! Oh the extenſive Charity of Diſſenters! Why? they could do no more if Reverend Mr. *Richard*, or Dr. *Ow.* were in bonds and impriſonment. But why all this Zeal and Union among Proteſtant Diſſenters and their Patrons, for a profeſſed known avowed Papiſt, ſtill perſiſting in that damnable Religion? This is a ſtrange Riddle and puzzles my underſtanding to that degree, that I can find no ſolution for it, unleſs the Proverb will help me out, *Like to like, quoth the Devil to the Collier.*

Earn. Well Sir, Time is the moſt infallible *Oedipus*, but moſt aſſuredly they who are ſo ſollicitous for *Fitz-harris*, are not ſo for nothing.

Jeſt. However this venomous Libel has ſtollen into the World, the comparing it with the other which paſs'd for a Zealous Proteſtant Remonſtrance, and was full of true Proteſtant Names, as *Church-Papiſts*, *betraying Biſhops*, *Tantivy Abhorrers*, *barking Towzers*, *Popiſh Scriblers*, &c. which have ſo plentifully been beſtowed by *Curtis*, *Smith*, and *Care*, upon you and me and all honeſt and Loyal Subjects, will do his Majeſty and his People a kindneſs much beyond the intention of the publiſhers.

Earn. That it will upon my word. For firſt it is a clear Demonſtration, that Papiſts and Phanaticks, however they ſeem to be at open Wars in publick, yet behind the Curtain agree in the ſame methods of Libelling his Sacred Majeſty and the Government, the Council, Biſhops, Clergy and Loyal Gentry and Commons, as Arbitrary, Popiſh, Tantivy, Abhorring, Penſionary Maſquerades. 2dly, It clearly manifeſts, that Zeal or a pretence of it againſt the *D.* of *Y.* and bauling againſt a Popiſh Succeſſor, what Reflections upon the higheſt Characters in the Nation, which hitherto have paſſed and been made uſe of as a diſcriminating mark between a true Proteſtant and a Papiſt or Popiſhly affected Proteſtant, as all Church of *England*-men have been repreſented, is a very falſe Rule. For they ſay *Fitz-harris* the Papiſt in his Libel is as ſevere upon all theſe as the beſt Proteſtant Diſſenter of them all. 3dly, If People do not wilfully ſhut their Eyes, it will ſhew them, that the Diſſenters are the chiefeſt Inſtruments by which the Papiſts hope to ſubvert the Government both in Church and State, and that while they Tory, Tantivy and Maſquerade the Church of *England*-Proteſtants, and make ſuch a noiſe of Popery and arbitrary Power, Popiſh Succeſſion, *French* Intrigues, &c. they do but write after *Fitz harris's* Copy and do the work of the Papiſts moſt effectually? 4thly,

Jeſt. Hold, hold man, hold, here's the Young Elephant and his Popiſh keeper *Momus* are at your back, the Beaſt is juſt ready to Trunk you, and *Care* comes whiſking at you with his Quarter-ſtaff, and challenges the whole Field, Cut and Long-tail, come that dare; look to your hits or you will have a broken pate.

Earn. Oh! let 'em come, I have a Cat with 9 Tails in my Pocket, a company of firking jirking Quere's will make *Comus* and *Momus* and the *Nuncio* dance the Hay, I warrant you.

Jeſt. Come play 'em at them then, and let's ſee a little of their activity.

Query, 1. Whether private Printing *Fitz-Harris* his Libel, which the late Houſe of Commons thought ſo full of abominable Treaſon, that they would not permit it to be Printed; and the diſperſing it by *Sam. Harris* a true Proteſtant Diſſenter, be not a plain caſe that there is een hanging choice between the Loyalty of a Phanatick and a Papiſt?

2. Whether, The Papiſts are not the whole-ſale Merchants of all the Seditious, Scandalous Libels againſt the King, the Government, the Church, the loyal Nobility, Gentry and Commons; and the Diſſenters, the Retailers and petty Chapmen, and whether the Receivers be not as bad as the Thief?

3. Whether, If it were poſſible to find out in whoſe hands all the Printed Libels diſperſed by *Sam. Harris* and Partners are; for it is to be ſuppoſed he has not the ſole Monopoly; they would not be found only in the hands of thoſe who call themſelves the *true Proteſtants*: And whether their concealing Treaſon is not a miſpriſion of Treaſon, and a moſt convincing Demonſtration, that for all their Canting, they love the King as the Papiſts ſay, *the Devil loves Holy Water?*

4. Whether, The Proteſtant *Joyner*, and the Quondam *upholſter Whittacre*, who ſtumbled out of his Shop and into a *Livery Gown* for his Zeal againſt the Government, who, like a couple of proper Squires offered to be Bail for *Sam. Harris* the *Popiſh* Factor, be not an Argument that they are Birds of a Feather?

5. Whether, This thread if it be followed home, will not lead us out of the Labyrinth, and diſcover that there is a deſign of the Diſſenters againſt the King and Government, aſwell as of the Papiſts; and whether the reaſon of their Zeal for *Fitz-Harris* do not now begin to appear?

6. Whether, Challenging *Care* had not a finger in the Pye in the Lybel againſt the King and Government called, *An intercepted Letter to* Roger L'Eſtrange, which they ſay is a Counterpart of *Fitz-Harris's* Libel, and whether his and ſomebodies Britch do not begin to make Buttons for Squire *Ketches* Loops?

7 Whether, If *Care's Popiſh Courant* be in the end found to be ſo in good Earneſt, and of the ſame ſtamp with *Fitz-Harris's*, and from the ſame hands, he will not find that there's no fooling with the Devil?

8. Whether, Sh. *B's* viſit to *Sam. Harris* preſently after his Commitment to *Newgate*, was pure Charity to a poor Priſoner, pity to a Friend and Acquaintant; or to adviſe him not to diſcover from what hands he had the Libel, which it may be would rebound at ſomebodies door, which it is not fit for the good of the Cauſe ſhould be known?

9. Whether the Diſſenters are not in a pitcher of Curds; for if they eſpouſe *Sam. Harris's* quarrel, all the World will ſee what they would be at; and if they do not, but let him be hangd without making a noiſe for him, whether he will not be tempted to tell Tales and ſpoil all?

10. Whether the Young Elephants *Momus* be not a very pretty Fellow, who tells the People that their Birthrights and their *Magna Charta* too may be taken away by Act of Parliament; and whether he does not thereby intend to put the People out of love with Parliaments?

11. Whether, thoſe perſons, their ſons, or men of the ſame principles who once before took away our *Magna Charta*, and according to his Rule may do it, are fit to be truſted with that power which he pretends to have; and whether it is not time for him to ſhut up ſhop when he writes nonſence for Law, when he tells us the Parliament beſtows our Birthrights, which is in effect to ſay they make us Men, and may make us Aſſes, if they pleaſe?

12. Whether the Grand Jury of *Middleſex* returning thanks to themſelves for what they did and intended to do in the laſt Parliament, be not *claw thou me*, and *Ile claw thee*, which in the old Latin proverb is *Mulus mulum ſcalpit!* and whether they who commend themſelves do not live a great way from good Neighbours?

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